Perception of L2 production by L1 speakers of different dialectal backgrounds: the case of Japanese-speaking learners' /u/ perceived by French and Quebec native speakers

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Research question

Do native listeners of French from France and Quebec judge French /u/ pronounced by Japanese-speaking learners differently?

Answer suggested by the present study

Yes, to some extent (tokens with F2 between 1000-1100 Hz).

Hypothesis

Quebec listeners judge Japanese-speaking learners’ /u/, pronounced with higher F2 (> 1000 Hz) as better exemplars of /u/ than French listeners.

Stimuli

French vowels /u y ø/ in isolation.

Carrier sentence: “Je dis /N/ comme dans …” (e.g. Je dis /u/ comme dans “loot”).

5 Japanese-speaking learners (JSL: 3 male and 2 female) studying French in Tokyo.

18 tokens x 3 vowels x 4 repetitions.

Listeners

16 native listeners of French from France.

16 native listeners of French from Quebec.

Protocol

• Identification: multiple forced choice (10 oral and 4 nasal vowels of French).

• Rating: 1-5 (good exemplar or not?).

Results: identification

16 French listeners

Conclusion

Acknowledgement

• The authors would like to express their gratitude to the participants of the experiment, and to the LPP (Laboratoire de phonétique et phonologie UMR 7018, CNRS) and the École Doctorale 268 Langue et langues (Université Paris 3) for their financial support that made this presentation possible.

• What about vowels pronounced in open and closed syllables?